

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND];

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL];

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU];

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL];

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE]; and

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID].

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Royal Highness, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Jacques Chirac.

The President of the French Republic, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Jacques Chirac.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

#### ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JACQUES CHIRAC, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

(The following address was delivered in French, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President CHIRAC. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of the Congress, first, I want to thank you very warmly for your welcome, and I am deeply touched by it.

"In America, I saw more than America; I was seeking a vision of democracy itself." Thus spoke Alexis de Tocqueville, one of our greatest thinkers. And because in the eyes of the world for more than 200 years you have been the symbol of such an ideal, I am indeed glad and proud of the opportunity of saluting today your very distinguished assembly.

Loyalty and friendship are the keynotes of my visit to the United States. It is a personal friendship, born during the liberation of France, when at the age of 12, I saw the American troops land in Provence. This friendship was still further strengthened when I came here to your country as a student, and I worked here, too, because one needs money to live, as a driver and as a soda jerk. It is a true and sincere friendship that grew from strength to strength each time I came to the United States, which was often.

But especially I wish to bear witness today to the friendship between our two peoples. We have all learned in our history books how France helped your country to establish itself as a free, sovereign, and independent nation and likewise, in return, how your political ideals had inspired our own revolution and contributed to the foundation of our Republic.

This friendship, sealed in blood, has never faltered. Twice during the present century, when Europe was engulfed in the darkness of war and barbarity, America rose up and threw in her might in the defense of democracy. Your soldiers paid with their lives or their wounds the price of that fight against evil.

Some of you here belong to that generation of heroes and your bodies carry the scars of war. Through you it is to the whole American people that I wish today to express our gratitude. The French will never forget the sacrifices you made for the freedom and the rebirth of Europe and France.

This exceptional relationship between the United States and France is based on a common vision of the world, the same faith in democracy, liberty, human rights, and the rule of law. Naturally, our interests do not always coincide, but since the very beginning France has always been and will always be, on the basis of equal rights and obligations, an ally of the United States, a firm ally, an ally you can count on.

Whenever essential values were at stake, each time France was by your side. In Berlin, and then during the Cuban missile crisis, and 20 years later, when the euromissiles were being deployed in Europe, and again in the Gulf war.

"True friendship," said George Washington, "is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation." The friendship between our two peoples has stood the test.

The agreement that is to restore peace in Bosnia was signed 6 weeks ago in Paris in the presence of President Clinton. A few days later NATO was given the necessary authority to implement that peace.

This enterprise is the culmination of long, joint efforts. In 1994, France proposed to the Europeans, the United States, and Russia to set up an original structure, the contact group, in order

to work out a peace plan. For this to succeed, we first had to ensure respect for our soldiers on the ground. That is why as soon as I took office I suggested to our British partners that we set up the rapid reaction force, and we discussed this together, Mr. Speaker, to use the strength of NATO in a decisive manner. It is in this new environment that the United States took the excellent initiative to organize the Dayton talks. I wish to pay tribute to the tenacity, the talent of those who crafted the accord.

Our joint action in Bosnia, the first large-scale military operation ever carried out by the alliance, illustrates the profoundly novel nature of the missions NATO can be called upon to accomplish. In this case the task is to give a country devastated by 4 years of war a unique opportunity to attain peace at long last. The alliance would not evade such a mission. France, with the United States and Great Britain, is responsible for one of the three zones of operations, and we will do all in our power to make the operation a success.

By accepting to throw in the balance the full weight of the political and military power of the United States, President Clinton and your Congress have shown a sense of political responsibility, the high moral standards that are so deeply embedded in American tradition. My wish would be that this commitment be pursued in the form of a lasting and balanced participation in the necessary reconstruction of the region.

Your presence in Bosnia sends a clear message to the world: As in the past, the United States considers that Europe is vital for its own security. I wish to pay tribute to the continuity and the strength of this commitment.

As I stand before you, I wish to reaffirm the position of France: The political commitment of the United States in Europe in its military presence on European soil are still an essential element of the stability and the security of the continent and also of the world.

Our common action in Bosnia emphasizes the need for the Atlantic Alliance to adapt itself to a universe that is no longer that in which it was born. The reform must first define the modes of action that will enable it to meet effectively the unpredictable situations that can arise in the post-cold-war period.

But the reform must also enable the European allies to assume fully their responsibilities, with the support of NATO facilities, wherever the United States does not wish to engage its ground forces. In accordance with what was said at the 1994 summit, we must work on the European pillar within the alliance, which President Kennedy referred to and which must progressively become a reality with the Western European Union.

In this new situation, France is ready to take its full share of this renovation process. And this was demonstrated a few weeks ago when France announced

its intention to move closer to the military structures of the organization. I wish to confirm today the open-mindedness and sense of availability with which France approaches this adaptation of NATO, including the military side, as long as the European identity can assert itself fully.

For the alliance to be strong, Europe must be strong, capable of bearing a larger share of the common burden.

I call for a renewed partnership between Europe, engaged in its own construction, including in the field of defense, and our North American allies. The culmination of this process could be the adoption at the appropriate time of a Transatlantic Charter, which would be a solemn sign for the coming century of the strength and the vitality of our alliance.

The reform of our organization will facilitate its enlargement, if we are capable of proposing to Russia a positive relationship with NATO in a security framework that gives that great country its rightful place in Europe and in the world. And the presence of Russian soldiers in Bosnia alongside the allies is a first promising step in that direction.

Let us show imagination and determination in building the European and transatlantic architecture of tomorrow. The balance and the peace of the world are at stake.

But Europe is not the only area in which we have common interests. We share the same values and so we both aspire to peace and progress in the world. We are exposed to the same threats. We face the same risks. We bear on our shoulders the same responsibilities.

Nothing that concerns the global village can leave us indifferent. No one is unaffected by what happens elsewhere, be it at the other end of the world. The AIDS virus or the effects of a new Chernobyl do not need visas to spread across borders. Drugs are a threat to young people everywhere. Nuclear arms proliferation weighs on the future of all of us. Illegal immigration is a problem for all developing countries, and we all feel the consequences of religious fanaticism and ethnic hatred which can destabilize entire regions. We must combine our efforts to get at the roots of these scourges.

Amongst all of these dangers, in my view the most serious one is underdevelopment. The continuation of our aid to those countries in need is a moral obligation incumbent on all of us. It is also the best way of defusing a time bomb, a time bomb that threatens all of us and will threaten our children as well.

Let us not leave to their fate the poorest countries on Earth, in particular the countries of Africa. Let us not leave them in the vicious cycle of exclusion by allowing the source of official development assistance to dry up, aid that is indispensable for them to move further toward democracy and development. We must not run the risk

of leaving to coming generations a legacy of yet more crises, yet more famines, yet more wars, and also the irreversible destruction of our environment and large-scale immigration. Let us not abandon the values that lie at the very heart of our civilization.

And we will not counter these dangers by accumulating every more weapons, nor by erecting ineffective barriers. The best security today lies in solidarity. Europe is convinced of this, and that is why Europe gives the poor countries more than \$30 billion annually, that is to say, three times more than the United States, a considerable effort.

My friends, in this field as well, the world needs you. Of course, your great Nation has to contend with budgetary constraints. So does Europe. So does France. But our difficulties should not divert us from our obligations toward the poorest countries of the world. Here the dictates of conscience and of political wisdom converge with our common interest.

From the rice paddies of Bangladesh to the heights of the Altiplano, from the sands of the Sahel to the outskirts of Lunada, everywhere men and women are suffering, and they thirst for prosperity and peace. Everywhere, and we see proof of this day after day in Africa, men and women are making real progress, to help them travel farther on the road toward development and democracy, to help them to consolidate the rule of law that they have begun to establish, and to help them carry out painful but necessary economic reforms. Everywhere men and women place high hopes in the progress of education, of science, and medicine in order at long last to attain a better life and happiness, happiness to which they are entitled, like everyone on this planet.

All over the world, men and women believe in America and Europe, in the generosity of their history, in their dedication to mankind. My friends, we must not let them down.

In our interdependent world, together we must fulfill all our respective responsibilities as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as the first and fourth world economic powers, and as members of the G7.

Together we must promote disarmament and combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. France has ended, once and for all, its nuclear testing, after a final series that was designed to give us the assurance that our deterrence capability is reliable and safe. Let us join our efforts to make 1996 the year of the signing of the complete and definitive test ban treaty, with the zero yield option that France and the United States were the first to propose. I also welcome the decision of your Senate to authorize the ratification of the START II Treaty. Its implementation by the United States and Russia will also pave the way to further progress in disarmament.

Let us also join efforts to make 1996 the year of decisive progress toward peace in the Middle East, with the signing of treaties between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. Thus will be fulfilled totally the destiny of Yitzhak Rabin, to whose memory I wish to pay tribute.

And finally let us work together within the organizations that we have established. I have in mind, first, the United Nations, the only legitimate universal organization, the only bulwark against disorder and arbitrariness in international relations. Let us help the United Nations to reform itself. Let us not refuse the United Nations the necessary means to succeed.

I have in mind, also, the World Trade Organization that we have recently set up together. We have established it to ensure orderly world trade. Let us resist temptations to unilateralism.

And there is also the International Development Association of the World Bank [IDA]; it is an irreplaceable instrument in the fight against hunger, against extreme poverty and underdevelopment. It also plays a crucial role in developing the markets of the beneficiary countries, which in point of fact, already receive 40 percent of your exports. IDA was established at the initiative of President Eisenhower. Let us act together enabling it to pursue its action.

And last, there is the G7, which will hold its next summit in June hosted by France in the city of Lyon. Let us avail ourselves of that opportunity for better coordination of our economic and financial policies.

To carry out successfully the tasks that lie ahead, the United States will increasingly find in the European Union a strong partner. Thanks to the joint impetus given by France and Germany, it is the ambition of the European Union to gain in strength, and this will happen before the turn of the century through more effective institutions within the European Union, a single currency, and by enlargement involving the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. By the next generation, the European Union, in all probability, will have risen from 15 to 30 member countries. Europe, reconciled historically and geographically on the basis of democracy, social justice, and a market economy, will have become one of the most stable and dynamic areas in the world of tomorrow.

The European Union and the United States are already each other's main trading partners, and it is a balanced trade relationship. They are also each other's main investors: 3 million Europeans are today employed by American firms, and 3 million Americans work for European firms.

Today, Europe is the world's most open economic entity. We are prepared to increase freedom of trade still further, while still respecting our vital interests, and in the framework of a balanced approach.

Building on the bedrock of a 50-year-old alliance, we can and must create a

genuine partnership, a comprehensive partnership, between the new Europe and America.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, in the wake of the victory over nazism, the United States contributed more than any other country to the shaping of the post-war world with the setting up of the United Nations and NATO, of the IMF and the World Bank, and with the implementation of the Marshall plan. These were key contributions, and the 50 years of peace and prosperity that ensued owe a great deal, a great deal indeed, to this American commitment.

Today, as then, the world needs the United States. Your commitment is as necessary as ever in order to build the uncertain post-cold-war world and to further the cause of peace, democracy, and development.

These are great challenges that lie ahead for all of us, and we will meet them if we are united and as one. It is only with this sense of solidarity and union that we can leave to our children the legacy of a better world, a world in which they can flourish, a world of liberty, justice, and peace.

I thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 12 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m., the President of the French Republic accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 1 p.m.

□ 1303

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceed-

ings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be five 1-minutes on each side.

#### TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in defense of the middle-class tax cuts that the middle class gets. They keep getting promised these tax cuts, but they never seem to get them.

It is a fact that hard-working people in this country are overtaxed. The Federal Government continues to rip off hard-working people in order to benefit special-interest elites. This Government taxes families in my community in Cincinnati so that Hazel O'Leary-types can continue to jet around the world on five-star junkets. The Government continues to tax people in Cincinnati so that huge corporations can get subsidies to advertise their products around the world, advertising that they would do anyway. It is an absolute outrage.

We continue to rip off the American people to give tax subsidies and price supports to people who do not need them. Taxes are absolutely too high in this country. The special-interest groups and their fellow defenders here in Washington will now scream, tax cuts for the rich, tax cuts for the rich, but I think the American people know better; they know the people in this country are overtaxed.

We need to cut taxes now.

#### HOLD HOLLYWOOD RESPONSIBLE

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, many of us over the course of service in Congress have come to this floor as Members of this body and as parents to strongly condemn some of the types of films that are coming out of Hollywood and New York for their vulgarity, for their lack of content, for their lack of values, and their message to the American people.

While I have done that in the past, I also do not claim to be a Siskel or an Ebert or even an Arch Campbell. But I also think we should come to this body, as Members of Congress, when there is a good movie, and encourage our citizens and consumers of this country that when Hollywood does do

the exceptional thing and make the exception and make a Frank Capra-like move, like Mr. Holland's Opus, about how one person can make a difference, how education is important in America, and about values, I think we should all reward those types of messages in America today.

#### BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, we all know that we cannot balance the budget without the political will to address and to reform a failed welfare system in America, yet the President, the same President who, as a candidate, promised to end welfare as we know it, vetoed the House-Senate-passed welfare reform bill.

The reason, ostensibly, is that the bill does not do enough to provide child care for working parents, particularly single mothers who many times struggle against heroic odds, to provide child care for their children. However, the American people should know that the bill the President vetoed provided \$2 billion more for child care for working parents than current law, and \$1 billion more than the bill that the Senate passed and the President praised last September.

The President has a very simple choice. He can join us in reforming welfare on a bipartisan basis, or he can continue to pander to the left wing of his party.

#### ADDRESS DEBT CEILING LIMIT NOW

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House is on the verge of leaving town before addressing the problem of our debt limit. Instead of working to raise the debt limit and protecting the full faith and credit of the United States, the Republican majority has spent the past few months in a game of brinkmanship with the White House.

For awhile it was: Give us what we want or we will close down the Government. Now it is: Give us what we want or we will default on our debt.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to resist this approach. It will reduce the public opinion of Congress even further, and it has real and adverse consequences.

The main point of raising the debt ceiling is to pay our current obligations, to pay those Treasury billholders and to pay those U.S. savings bond purchasers. It is not about increasing our future spending.

I have cosponsored a resolution to keep the House in session until it considers a clean bill on the debt ceiling,